

# THE STUDENT'S HISTORY NOTES

FOR THE USE OF THOSE PREPARING FOR

ENTRANCE TO HIGH SCHOOLS,

COUNTY PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS, &c.

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BY

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THIRD EDITION.

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## PREFACE.

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The following pages contain the notes on British History which were prepared for the use of my own pupils who were preparing to enter the High School, or for County Promotion Examinations. They may serve as an outline of History for more advanced pupils.

References have been made to the best works on the subject, and only the most important events noticed.

In the hope that it may assist some of my fellow teachers, I say, "Go forth, little book."

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

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The hearty reception given to this little work has induced the Author to prepare another edition.

A few more notes have been added, bringing it up to the present time, and its form has been altered slightly.

The necessity of such a work has long been felt. Young students who are preparing to pass the Entrance Examinations and County Promotion Examinations have to use our larger works on History, when a collection of brief notes, containing the most important events of History, would be infinitely better. To meet this want this little work has been prepared; and the rapid sale of the First and Second Editions has shown that in some measure it has supplied the want. More notes will be added from time to time, as important events transpire.

Hoping that it may lighten the labors of some of his fellow-teachers in Ontario, the Author leaves it in their hands.

ALEX. S. MARTIN.

## NOTES ON HISTORY.

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**E**NGLAND was conquered by the Romans, under Julius Cæsar, 55 years before our Saviour was born. At that time, the English, or Britons, as they were called, were a rude uncivilized race. They knew nothing of the Christian religion. Their form of faith was called DRUIDISM. Their ministers were DRUIDS.

They thought that when a person died, his or her soul entered some beast, as a horse, or a cow, and still inhabited the earth.

They wore no clothes, but stained their bodies blue, with some herb. They had no houses like we have, but small huts made of mud.

They were very brave, and offered a gallant resistance to the Romans.

After the *Roman Conquest*, they gradually became more civilized, and adopted many of the Roman customs. It was *Julius Agricola*, the man whom the Romans appointed Governor of the island, who did the most to civilize the Britons. He built walls to protect the Britons from the incursions of enemies, made laws for them, and taught them how to cultivate their land.

There were three of the commanders of the Britons whose names it might be well to remember. They are *Caractacus*, *Cassivelaunus*, and queen *Boadicea*. They all opposed the Romans, and won great renown by their gallant conduct. The Romans remained in possession of England till A.D. 410, when Honorius, who was then Emperor of Rome, was so pressed by his enemies, that he was obliged to withdraw all the Roman soldiers who were stationed in England, to defend his own country.

Thus we see the Roman Period lasted from B.C. 55, until A.D. 410.

### THE ENGLISH CONQUEST.

*A.D. 410 until 1017.*

After the Romans left England, the inhabitants were in a very feeble condition, because they had been taught the "arts

of peace," and were unable to defend themselves against intruders. While they held sway, the Romans had done all the fighting, while the Britons cultivated the land. Now, they were attacked by the *Picts* and *Scots*, two neighbouring tribes, who were as savage as the Britons had been before the Roman Conquest.

Finding that they were unable to defeat the Picts and Scots, the Britons asked the *Saxons* to help them. Their request was granted by the Saxons, who after they had defeated the Picts and Scots, took possession of the country for themselves. Gradually other tribes settled in England, each tribe founding a separate kingdom. At one time there were as many as seven kingdoms, called the Saxon Heptarchy, the kings of which were continually at war with one another. At last they all merged into one kingdom called England, the king of which was Egbert, 827 A.D.

Though we have been speaking of England from the beginning, the country was not known by that name till A.D. 827.

Christianity was introduced into England in 596 A.D., or 597 A.D. Hitherto the inhabitants were idolaters.

Egbert was no sooner settled on the throne, than he was disturbed by the invasions of the Danes, who came from Norway and Sweden, and Denmark.

The first check was given to these people by *Alfred the Great*, who was the greatest and most important of the early Kings. He defeated the Danes, encouraged learning, founded the University of Oxford, established a fleet, and, some writers affirm, established trial by jury. He reigned from A.D. 871 to 901, 30 years.

*Athelstan* reigned from the death of Alfred till 925 A.D. He encouraged commerce greatly by bestowing upon every merchant, who made three voyages in his own ships, the title of *Thane*.

Ethelred, who by his indolence gained the title of the Unready, was a very worthless monarch. The Danes began to renew their ravages in his reign. In order to get rid of them, he levied a tax called *DANEGELD*, to pay the Danes for leaving the country. They did leave, but larger bands came to be paid for leaving.

Finding that the plan only produced a worse effect, he ordered a general massacre of the Danes, 1002 A.D. This enraged the Danish king, *Sweyn*, who came over to England

with a large army, in 1013 A. D., Ethelred fled to Normandy, and, after a fierce struggle the Danes get possession of the English throne, 1017 A. D.

### DANISH PERIOD.

1017 to 1042.

The first of the Danish line of kings was Canute who made good laws, and carried them out. He professed to be a Christian. He died in 1035.

Harold I. was the next king. His reign is not marked by any great event. He died in 1040.

Harthacanute was the last Danish king. He was a bad king and a wicked man. In order to keep up his fleet, he taxed the nation heavily, and he disgusted his subjects by many acts of inhumanity and brutality. He only reigned two years.

Edward the Confessor was the next king; in his person the English Line was restored. When Edward died, *Harold*, son of *Earl Godwin*, was placed on the throne, but *William, Duke of Normandy*, declared that Edward had bequeathed the throne to him, and also that Harold had sworn a most solemn oath not to oppose him. He then came over with a powerful army to assert his rights on the field of battle. Three days before, the English had won a hard fought battle over the Norwegians at *Stamford Bridge*. Now they were called upon to undergo a more trying ordeal. They fought bravely till their king fell, and then they turned and fled. By the battle of *Hastings* or *Senlac* the throne of England passed into the hands of a French dynasty, A. D. 1066.

During all these years there was in existence a sort of Parliament among the English, called the "*Witanagemot*," or Assembly of the Wise, which elected the king and occasionally gave him advice. It consisted of the most influential men of the country.

### NORMAN PERIOD.

From A. D. 1066 to 1154 A. D., 88 years.—*Four Kings.*

The kings of the Norman line were:—

William I. who reigned from 1066 to 1087.

William II. " " " 1087 to 1100.

Henry I. " " " 1100 to 1135.

Stephen " " " 1135 to 1154.



William I., surnamed the Conqueror, reigned from 1066 to 1087. He was crowned king of England, in London, on Christmas Day, 1066.

His most important acts were (1) *The Compilation of the Domesday Book* (2) *The laying out of the New Forest* and the enactment of the *Forest Laws* and (3) *The institution of the Curfew Bell*.

The Domesday Book, was a register of all English lands. It contained an account of every estate, the name of its owner, the amount of cultivated land, forests, rivers, &c.

*The Curfew Bell* was rung every night at eight o'clock, as a signal for putting out all fires. As the people then lived in huts of wood and rushes, which would easily take fire, this was a very good institution.

The *Forest Laws* enacted that any person who killed a deer, a wild boar, or other beast of chase, should undergo the frightful punishment of having his eyes torn out.

In laying out the New Forest the king converted all the land between Winchester and the Sea into an immense hunting park. He destroyed everything that came in his way for this purpose, and burned houses and churches to clear the ground for his plantation. The *Cinque Ports* were now fortified. The *Feudal System* was introduced into England in this reign. By it the king owned all the land. He divided it among his nobles, who again sub-divided among the gentry, the gentry then let it to their vassals. The tenant gave only a small portion of the rent, in money, grain, cattle, and for the remainder was compelled to fight under his lord's banner, without pay. Thus, when the king wanted an army, he called on his nobles, the nobles called on the gentry, and the gentry, on their vassals.

The English did not like William and rose in rebellion several times, but were defeated. William died in 1087.

## WILLIAM II.

William II., surnamed Rufus on account of his ruddy complexion, succeeded to the throne on the death of his father.

He was a cruel and faithless man, and ruled his people with a rod of iron.

The *First Crusade* started for Jerusalem in this reign 1096, A.D. The Crusades were expeditions made by religious enthusiasts to recover the City of Jerusalem from the Turks

or Saracens as they were then called. The First Crusade was excited by *Peter the Hermit*.

No event of much importance occurred in this reign. William died in 1100, A.D., and was succeeded by his brother Henry.

#### HENRY I.

Henry I. was the youngest son of William I. His first act was to give to the people a charter, in which he promised to restore all the old laws and reform all the abuses of Rufus' reign.

This Charter states pointedly that the freedom of the subjects cannot be lawfully encroached upon, this being the first step towards forming a limited monarchy in England.

The Norman and English lines of kings were now united by the marriage of Henry, and Maud, daughter of Malcolm III., King of Scotland, and niece of Edgar Atheling.

#### STEPHEN.

Stephen now succeeded to the throne, although he was not the rightful heir, because Maud, daughter of Henry I. was living. The Barons, however, disliked the idea of having a woman for a ruler, and for this reason they chose Stephen king. Maud, however, was not disposed to give up her right so easily, and war broke out. It continued for some time with varying success, till at last Stephen was defeated and taken prisoner at Lincoln.

Maud was now Queen, but her rule did not please the nation, and she was driven from the throne and Stephen was recalled.

In 1153 Maud's son, Henry, invaded England, but he and Stephen came to terms, and signed the Treaty of Winchester, by which Henry was to have the throne on the death of Stephen.

Stephen died in the following year.

#### PLANTAGENET PERIOD.

*1154—1399, lasting 245 years—Eight Kings.*

Henry II., 1154 to 1189. Henry was son of Maud and Geoffrey Plantagenet.

Thomas-a-Becket played an important part in this reign. He rose to the position of Archbishop of Canterbury. A quarrel arose between him and the king, and one day Henry

dropped some hasty words concerning him. Four knights heard them, and went to Canterbury, where they killed Becket at the door of his own Cathedral, 1170.

Ireland was conquered in this reign, 1172. A similarity exists of the manner in which England was subdued by the Saxons, and that in which Ireland was now conquered.

Under the firm rule of Henry the distinction between Englishmen and Normans vanished.

Some attribute our trial by jury to the wisdom of Henry. "Twelve men were taken from each neighborhood, and four from each township, and sworn to bring all who were known, or suspected to be criminals, to justice. These were witnesses, rather than judges, at first, but soon they were allowed to call in eye-witnesses to help them. Eventually they became jurors in the true sense of the word, and decided as they now do, the truth of the matter as told by witnesses."

#### RICHARD I.

Richard began to reign 1189, died 1199. He took more interest in the crusades than governing his people. Out of a reign of ten years he only spent six months in England.

The social effects of the crusades now began to be felt. They opened the nations of Asia to commerce, the consequence of which was that more money, &c., found its way into England. They helped to excite a kindlier feeling among the nations, leagued in a common cause, and they elevated the standard of the common classes, by weakening the power of the barons, whose estates began to pass into the hands of more worthy commoners.

#### JOHN.

John began to reign 1199 and died 1216. He was a worthless profligate, and his reign was a scene of continual tyranny and disorder, but from it we date the beginning of that chain of events which restricted the power of the Sovereign, and gave more liberty to the subject.

The barons had been heavily taxed all through the reign, but at length stung to the quick, by the dishonor and loss that John had subjected them to, they rose in rebellion and demanded to have their grievances redressed. They drew up a list of impositions to be rectified, and requested the king to set them right. After much grumbling and scheming, John did sign the document, which was called the Great Charter, or Magna Charta, 1215.

Magna Charta enacted : (1) That the church should be free ; (2) That the king was not allowed to raise money without the consent of the Great Council ; (3) No free man could be punished, or dispossessed of his lands, without the lawful judgment of his peers. These are the most important clauses of the Great Charter.

### HENRY III.

Henry III. began to reign 1216 and died in 1572. This is the longest reign in English History except that of George III. Henry had only reached the age of 9 years when his father died, so he was unable to administer the affairs of the state. A guardian, the Earl of Pembroke, a sagacious statesman, was therefore chosen, for the young king.

When Henry grew up he showed a preference for foreigners and appointed them to all the honorable offices he could. This dissatisfied his own subjects and they rose in rebellion. The insurgents were commanded by Simon DeMontford. At the battle of Lewes, in Sussex, Henry was defeated, and he and his son Edward were taken prisoners.

Montford now summoned a *Parliament*, to which he called not only the Barons, and Knights of the shire, as had been the custom before, but also men to represent the interests of the different cities, and towns, 1265. This was the origin of our parliament.

Edward having escaped from his prison now gathered a large army, and marched to meet Montford. A battle was fought at *Evesham*, at which Montford was defeated, and slain. Henry died in 1272, having reigned for 56 years.

### EDWARD I.

Edward I began to reign 1272 and died 1307. He was a good ruler and did a good deal towards improving the laws, and to make the parliament capable of assisting in the government.

His great ambition was to conquer Wales and Scotland, so that he might be king of the whole island. When Edward was crowned, Llewellyn, the Prince of Wales, refused to do homage to him. The result of this refusal was a quarrel, and the result of this quarrel was the conquest of Wales by Edward, 1282. The eldest son of Edward was born in the Welsh Castle of Caernarvon, and had the title Prince of Wales conferred on him. This title has been born by the eldest son of the British sovereign ever since.

At this time the affairs of Scotland were in confusion through the death of Margaret, "The Maid of Norway," as she was called, and as many as thirteen competitors for the throne appeared. Edward claimed the right to decide who should be king, and appointed John Baliol. The new king, however, soon discovered that he could not please Edward and he was repeatedly called to London, to answer for his conduct. At last he rose against Edward who speedily subdued and dethroned him, and then took the throne himself.

War was soon broke out again, Sir William Wallace, and Edward Bruce, being the chief leaders of the Scotch, Wallace was taken prisoner, and executed, but eventually Bruce was successful, and was crowned king of Scotland, 1306.

In 1297, Edward being badly in need of money, summoned a Parliament, that represented all classes of the kingdom. This Parliament was founded on the same plan as ours of the present time.

In this reign it was first enacted that no tax could be imposed by the Sovereign, except with the consent of Parliament.

## EDWARD II.

Edward II. began to reign 1307 and died 1327. He was very unlike his father, being careless of his people, fickle minded and imbued with partiality for foreigners.

Piers Gaveston, who had been a companion of Edward in his younger days, and who had been banished by Edward I., was recalled. The Barons were so bitterly opposed to Gaveston, and his great splendour, that they seized him and put him to death, 1312.

In Scotland, Bruce had been steadily fighting his way to the throne. He had got possession of all the strongest and most important places, and was then engaged in besieging Stirling. Edward nerved himself for one attempt to wrest the country back, and collected a large army, intending to crush the Scotch at a blow. The battle of Bannockburn was fought, and Edward was defeated, and obliged to acknowledge the independence of Scotland.

Edward's wife, Queen Isabella, openly quarreled with the king and fled to France, collected an army and returned to England. The barons favoured her and Edward was compelled to fly. He was soon captured, however, and the revo-

lution was brought to a close by the Parliament making a declaration that Edward was incapable of managing the affairs of state.

His son, Edward III. was raised to the throne. Eight months after Edward II. died. Some say he was murdered in Berkeley Castle, 1327.

### EDWARD III.

Edward III. began to reign 1327 and died 1377. To govern both England and France was the great object of his life. About the time of his accession to the throne of England there happened to be a dispute about the French throne, so Edward collected a large army and sailed for France, to contest the claims of others, personally. Thus was the *hundred years war* commenced. It received this title because for one hundred years no peace existed between England and France, although there was not continual fighting going on all that time.

After fighting several hard battles, he started towards Calais. He was opposed by the French army at Crecy. Here a great victory was won by Edward. The Black Prince, a boy of seventeen summers, fought with great valor, and it was chiefly through his bravery the battle was won. In 1347 Calais fell into the hands of the English, and remained in their possession till the reign of Mary. In 1356, ten years after the battle of Crecy was fought, the English met and defeated a French force seven times as large as their own. The French king was taken prisoner at this battle. The King of France was set free by the Treaty of Bretigny, 1360, on condition of his raising the money asked for his ransom. Failing to do this he returned and died in captivity.

In the year 1348 a terrible disease called the black plague broke out in England, carrying off hundreds of persons. No workmen could be got except at most exorbitant prices; trade stood still, and thieves and robbers infested the land.

From Edward III. came the rival houses of York and Lancaster, of which we shall read further on.

John Wycliffe, the first English religious reformer, lived in this and the succeeding reign. His followers got the name of *Lollards* from their practice of singing hymns. Wycliffe translated the Bible into English.

## RICHARD II.

Richard II. began to reign 1377 and died 1399. He was son of the Black Prince, and therefore grandson of the late king. Moir thus sums up his character: "He was a vain, weak and foolish king."

A rebellion, caused by a poll-tax of one shilling on every person over fifteen years of age, was the first memorable event of the reign. The leader of the rebels was Wat Tyler, a blacksmith. Rich and poor alike had to pay the same amount, and the low classes demanded a change. Among others were (1) That slavery should be abolished, and (2) that instead of paying for their lands in work, the farmers should pay a rent of four pence an acre yearly. The king promised to grant their demands, and the rabble dispersed, but not before their leader was killed.

A quarrel having arisen between two noblemen, the Duke of Norfolk and the Duke of Hereford, son of John of Ghent, the king banished them; Norfolk for life, Hereford for ten years. At the expiration of that time the latter returned, took Richard prisoner, and was crowned king himself.

## HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

*From A. D. 1399 to 1461—62 years.—Three Kings.*

Henry IV. began to reign 1399.

Henry V. " " 1413.

Henry VI. " " 1422, died 1461.

Henry IV. began to reign 1399 and died 1413. He held the reigns of state during troublesome times.

A rebellion, headed by the Percies, father and son, broke out. At the battle of Shrewsbury, in 1403, the insurgents were defeated, and Henry Percy, or as he was called, Hotspur, was slain.

## HENRY V.

Began to reign 1413, died 1422.

Henry V. was a "soldier, a statesman, and king." He was anxious to obtain possession of France. He declared war, and in 1415 won the great battle of Agincourt. The English army numbered about 9,000 troops, and the French about 65,000.

The war was brought to a close by the Treaty of Troyes, 1420, by which Henry married the French Princess, Catharine, and was to succeed to the French throne on the death of the French king. He died 1422.



His widow, Catharine, married a Welsh gentleman, Owen Tudor by name, and thus became the ancestor of the Tudor line of kings, of which the first representative was Henry VII.

## HENRY VI.

Began to reign 1422, died 1461.

At the death of Henry V. his son was only ten months old, and at that age could not be expected to manage the kingdom very well, so a council of twenty was formed, with the Duke of Gloucester at their head, to direct the affairs of state. The Duke of Bedford was made Regent of France.

The French war, which had broken out just before the death of Henry V., was continued, and with success, till at last Joan of Arc, a young peasant girl, persuaded the French King that she had a mission from Heaven to free her country. She was placed at the head of the French army and victory crowned her efforts. Having fallen into the hands of the English, she was burned alive at Rouen in 1631.

In this reign began the *Wars of the Roses*, so called on account of the red rose and the white rose, being the respective badges of the rival Houses of Lancaster and York.

Richard, Duke of York, claimed the throne, and raised an army against Henry. The wars began in 1455, and ended in 1485, lasting for thirty years. Twelve battles were fought, nine of which were won by the Yorkists, but in the end the Lancastrians were successful.

The first battle was fought at St. Albans in 1455 and the last at Bosworth, 1485.

## HOUSE OF YORK.

*From A.D. 1462 to A.D. 1485, 24 years—Three Kings.*

Edward IV. began to reign 1461.

Edward V. " " 1483.

Richard III. " " 1483.

## EDWARD IV.

*From 1461 to 1483, 22 years.*

Edward had trouble to meet, and enemies to overcome, before he could reign in peace. The Earl of Warwick, who was called the *King-Maker*, quarrelled with the king, and joined Margaret, the wife of Henry VI. She was in exile at



the time, but directly the King-Maker joined her, they sailed to England, and collecting a large army compelled Edward to flee, and Henry VI. again ascended the throne.

Edward soon returned, however, and fought the bloody battle of Barnet, at which the Lancastrians were defeated. At the *Battle of Tewkesbury*, young Prince Edward having been taken prisoner was brutally slain. Shortly afterwards King Henry was murdered in the Tower.

The Art of Printing was introduced into England in 1474, by William Caxton. The first book ever printed in England was entitled "The Game, and Playe of Chesse."

### EDWARD V.

*From April, 1483, to June, 1483, two months.*

At the age of twelve years Edward V. succeeded to the throne. His uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was made Protector. He wanted to get the throne himself, so he caused young Edward and his brother, the little Duke of York, to be placed in the Tower, as he pretended it was for his safety.

Soon after the Crown was offered to him by some noblemen whose favour he had gained, and he accepted it with apparent reluctance.

### RICHARD III.

*From A.D. 1483, to A.D. 1485, two years.*

The two innocent young princes, or rather the king and his little brother, were murdered in the Tower, shortly after the accession of Richard, and by the orders of the usurper himself.

A majority of the people were against Richard, and it was proposed by them to give the crown to Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, a descendant of Owen Tudor and Catharine, widow of Henry V. and the representative of the House of Lancaster, on condition of marrying Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward the IV., the representative of the House of York, and so unite the two houses.

Henry landed in England, and the two opposing armies met at Bosworth Field, and a great battle was fought, the last of the Wars of the Roses. Henry and the Lancastrians were victorious, and Richard was killed.

The Wars of the Roses struck a fatal blow at the feudal system, as all, or nearly all, the barons were destroyed. With

the feudal system also disappeared slavery, or villenage, as it was called, which had existed in England for many centuries.

### TUDOR PERIOD.

*From 1483 to 1603, 118 years—5 Sovereigns.*

Henry VII.	began to reign	1485,	died	1509.
Henry VIII.	" "	1509,	"	1547.
Edward VI.	" "	1547,	"	1553.
Mary . . . . .	" "	1553,	"	1558.
Elizabeth ..	" "	1558,	"	1603.

### HENRY VII.

*From 1485 to 1509, 24 years.*

Henry VII. laid claim to the throne by right of conquest, and by right of inheritance. A great time this was for imposters, no less than three claimants appearing to dispute Henry's right to the throne. The first of these pretenders was Lambert Simnel, who came forward and asserted that he was the Duke of Clarence. His project failed.

Next a young man whose real name was Perkin Warbeck, set up a claim to the throne, and said that he was the Duke of York, who was, it was reported, murdered in the Tower by Richard III. Warbeck gained many adherents, and among them some of the highest and most influential noblemen in the kingdom. For a short time the king had reason to fear him, but he was deserted by his followers, and he himself was made a prisoner and executed.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus discovered the mainland of America. Cabot, who was sent out by Henry, discovered Labrador in 1497. He sailed along the eastern coast of North America as far as what is now the State of Maryland. In the same year, 1497, Vasco DeGama doubled the Cape of Good Hope, thus opening a watery path to India.

In 1503, Margaret, the eldest daughter of Henry, married James the IV. of Scotland. It was this marriage that prepared the way for the union of England and Scotland, just one century later.

### HENRY VIII.

*From 1509 to 1547, 38 years.*

In 1509 Henry the VIII. was married to Catharine of Arragon, his brother Arthur's widow. Henry VII. had made

an alliance with Spain, and his son desired to tie the bands of friendship tighter.

Shortly after this event Henry invaded France, but nothing of importance was connected with the invasion.

While Henry was absent, James II. of Scotland invaded England, but was defeated and slain at the battle of Flodden, 1415.

Thomas Wolsey was Henry's chief adviser during the early part of the reign. He, by his untiring energy and perseverance, succeeded in making England more respected by the nations of Europe, than she had been since the days of Henry V. He raised himself to be Papal Legate, and his great ambition was to be Pope, but he was disappointed. Henry had grown tired of Catherine, his wife, and wanted to get a divorce, Wolsey could not obtain it as soon as the king wished, and for that reason he was disgraced, accused of being guilty of high treason and arrested. It is probable that he would have been executed had he not died, before anything further could be done.

Henry soon changed his foreign policy, and broke his alliance with Spain. He had fallen in love with a young lady of the Court, Anne Boleyn by name, and was anxious to secure a divorce, in order to marry Anne.

The Pope, Clement VII. who was afraid to offend the English king or the Emperor of Spain, nephew of Catherine, did not know what to do. Henry took the matter in his own hands, and Thomas Cranmer, who had lately been appointed legate, pronounced Henry's marriage with Catharine to have been null and void. Henry then married Anne privately. These events eventually led to the great religious *Reformation* which took place in this reign.

The Reformation was begun in Germany, by Martin Luther who had been educated for a priest, but had studied the Scriptures thoroughly, and had arrived at the conclusion that the Roman Catholic religion was little better than idolatry. The change reached England just about the time of Henry's quarrel with the Pope. The English too thought that the Pope had too much authority over English matters, for in those days all were compelled to do the Pope's bidding. Henry at once seized the opportunity, broke free from Roman Catholic bondage, and established himself as head of the English Church.

Henry VIII. was married six times and left three children, viz:—Edward, Mary and Elizabeth, all of whom held the throne.

Although it is generally believed that Henry VIII. was a tyrant, it must be remembered that it was during stormy years that he held the reins of power, and it was necessary for him to be very strict, and severe in order to preserve peace.

#### EDWARD VI.

*From A.D. 1547 to 1553, six years.*

The Duke of Somerset was made Protector of England, on the death of Henry VIII., as young Edward was only in his tenth year, and consequently was not competent to manage the kingdom.

Somerset entered upon a war with Scotland to make the Scotch give up the young Queen Mary as Henry VIII. had desired that she and his son Edward should be married. The Scotch were defeated at the *Battle of Pinkie*, but they sent Mary to France where she soon was married to the Dauphin.

The great English Reformation was completed in this year. Archbishop Cranmer taking a large share in the good work.

Public opinion now began to turn against Somerset, so he resigned, and was succeeded by the Duke of Northumberland, an artful and designing man. He soon obtained so great an influence over the young king that he persuaded him to leave the throne to his cousin Lady Jane Gray, to whom Guildford Dudley, son of the Duke of Northumberland, was married.

Soon after this Edward died, and it was rumored that Northumberland had hastened his death by the use of poison.

#### MARY.

*From A. D. 1553 to A. D. 1558, five years.*

Upon the death of Edward Lady Jane Gray was proclaimed Queen, but the people were all in favor of Mary, so Lady Jane resigned. But by the orders of Mary she and her husband were executed. Mary may be said to have been the first Queen of England.

The darling project of Mary's heart was to revive the Roman Catholic faith in England. To aid her in this she married Philip of Spain, one of the great Catholic powers of Europe. This marriage was very much disliked by the

people. Mary at once began to persecute most cruelly the *Protestants*, and many were burned at the stake.

In 1558 Calais, which the English had held since the days of Edward III., was lost. Soon after Mary died.

### ELIZABETH.

From 1558 to 1603, 45 years.

On the death of Mary, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, became Queen. She was a Protestant and at once decided to maintain the Protestant religion. Accordingly she passed two Acts, viz: *Act of Uniformity*, which enacted "that no other services than those laid down in the Prayer Book, should be used," and the Act of Supremacy, which required all persons holding office to acknowledge Elizabeth as the head of the Church and State.

In this reign some persons who, now that they were free from the thralldom of Roman Catholicism, desired to rush to the other extreme, seceded from the English Church and established the Puritan party.

Mary Queen of Scots having become Queen of France, now claimed the title of Queen of England also, on the ground that she was the grand-daughter of Henry VII's eldest sister Margaret.

Left a widow in 1561 she returned to Scotland, where the Protestant religion had taken a firm hold. She, being a Catholic, did not agree very well with her people. She was accused of assisting in the murder of her second husband, and dethroned. Escaping from the prison, she fled to England, where she was again thrown into prison. After enduring an imprisonment of nineteen years, she was tried for assisting in a conspiracy against Elizabeth's life, found guilty, and executed in 1587.

In 1588 Philip of Spain fitted out an enormous fleet and sent it to crush the power of England at a blow. He was disappointed, however, for instead of his fleet, "The Invincible Armada," defeating the English, the English defeated it.

Protestants and Catholics fought side by side, and domestic troubles were forgotten under the shadow of a great danger.

William Cecil (Lord Burleigh,) was the chief adviser of Elizabeth.

The first settlement made by the English in America was founded by Sir Walter Raleigh and called Virginia by him, in honor of the Virgin Queen.

William Shakespeare, the greatest poet the world ever knew, Spencer and Bacon, were the writers of the reign.

#### STUART PERIOD—1603 to 1688.

##### JAMES I., 1603-1625

James I., the son of Mary Queen of Scots, was the first king of the Stuart line.

The three great religious bodies then existing in England all cherished hopes of his attaching himself to their belief. When James declared himself to be an Episcopalian, both Puritans and Romanists were discontented. The Romanists determined to rid the nation of the Protestant king. With this object in view, they hired a cellar under the parliament buildings, and placed there thirty six barrels of gunpowder. These they covered over with wood, so as to completely hide the powder barrels from view. Their intention was to ignite the powder on the day that the parliament met, and destroy the king and all the members, and then to place a younger member of the king's family on the throne. Guy, or *Guido Fawkes*, was the man they persuaded to apply the fatal match. But Lord Monteagle, a member of the parliament, and a Romanist, was warned by an anonymous letter not to attend, as the parliament would receive a blow and not know from whose hand it came. He laid the letter before the king and some of his councillors and the plot was discovered, and the conspirators punished.

Sir Walter Raleigh was imprisoned in this reign on a charge of aiding a plot to dethrone James, and place his cousin Arabella Stuart, on the throne. During his imprisonment he commenced a history of the world, but it was never completed. At last he promised to disclose a gold mine, of which he knew, in Guana, if set free. His offer was accepted, but he was not successful, and on his return to England he was executed on the old charge of treason.

Francis Bacon, a great literary man, lived in this reign.

In this reign the Bible was translated into the English tongue by ministers selected from among the Episcopal and Puritan clergy.

We may date the beginning of the struggle between king and parliament from the time James ascended the throne.

The thirty years war began 1618.

Raleigh, Bacon and Massinger were some of the literary men of the reign.

James died in 1625, and was succeeded by his second son, Charles.

#### CHARLES I.—1626-1649.

Charles I., the second son of James I., became king in 1625. He got into trouble with his first parliament on the question of supplies. He dissolved the parliament, and began to impose taxes on his own authority. One of his means of raising money was by reviving an old tax called "*Ship-money*." In early days, this tax had been levied on maritime counties in time of war, to maintain a fleet, now Charles levied it indiscriminately on maritime and inland counties, in time of peace, and to maintain a standing army. The people murmured and "*John Hampden*" refused to pay. He was tried and the verdict was against him.

Civil war broke out in a short time. Several battles were fought. The king's army being composed of rich gentlemen bore the name of the Royalists. The opposing army was composed of farmers and the lower class of people, who were called *Roundheads*.

The war ended in the defeat of Charles, who was taken prisoner and beheaded.

*Oliver Cromwell*, who had fought in the Parliamentary Army, and had risen to the command of that army, then stepped into the king's place.

In 1628 the Parliament before granting any money to the king, had forced him to sign the *Petition of Rights* which enacted that the king could detain no person in prison beyond a certain time without trial, could not billet soldiers in private houses, and could not levy taxes without consent of Parliament.

#### THE COMMONWEALTH—1649-1658.

Cromwell, who had been the means of causing the execution of Charles, now began to pave his way to the throne. All the Presbyterians who had fought against Charles did not desire his downfall, they only wanted to see his power limited. They now opposed the schemes of Cromwell, but the latter



was at the head of a party called *Independents*, who had left the Puritan body and established a religion of their own, and they were by far the most powerful of the three parties, viz. : Royalists, Puritans, and Independents.

Cromwell began by breaking the power of the Royalists in Ireland, in which country he butchered whole garrisons, and placed fanatics of his own sect in their places.

At the battles of Worcester and Dunbar he completely broke the power of his opponents. At last he reached the position to which he had so long been aspiring. He was made Protector of the Commonwealth.

There is no denying that he added much to the glory and fame of England. He took the island of Jamaica and other places of importance, and defeated the Dutch who were then the rivals of England in commerce.

He expelled the Long Parliament for not doing what he wanted. This was one of the offences for which Charles was beheaded. He died in 1658 and his son Richard succeeded him.

Richard Cromwell soon gave up his newly acquired honours and for two years England had no ruler.

General Monk, who had command of the troops in Scotland, and who did not believe in letting England be ruled by an army of fanatics, now marched to London, and, to the great joy of the people, declared for a free Parliament.

The old members, who had been expelled by Cromwell, now took their seats, and, after issuing writs for a general election they dissolved the famous Long Parliament.

The new Parliament invited Charles to take the throne, and amid general rejoicing, he was crowned king 1660. Thus was the Restoration completed.

## CHARLES II.

*From 1660 to 1685—25 years.*

Nothing was against Charles II. when he ascended the throne. The people were weary of rebellion and war, and laid no limit to his power. They all looked upon him with great loyalty, and expected to have their wrongs speedily set right. Charles, however, cared little for the happiness of his subjects so long as he could gratify his own desires.

In 1665 a great plague devastated London, carrying away it is said about 100,000 of the inhabitants. In the year following, (1666) a great fire destroyed nearly two-thirds of the city.



About this time a disgraced clergyman, named Titus Oates, came forward with a story of a *Popish Plot*, to assassinate the king and murder all Protestants. The king's brother, James, Duke of York, had shortly before this openly avowed himself to be a Roman Catholic, and it was suspected that Charles too leaned towards the same faith. The story was believed, and many innocent people were put to death.

In 1679 was passed the "*Habeas Corpus*" Act. It decreed that no sovereign could detain any person in prison beyond a certain time without bringing him to a fair trial.

The "*Exclusion Bill*" was brought into Parliament and fiercely debated upon. It was intended to exclude James, Duke of York, from the throne, as he was a Roman Catholic. It passed the Commons, but was lost in the House of Lords.

The party names "Cavalier," and "Roundheads," were changed in this reign to "Tory" and "Whig," and later on these became "Conservative" and "Liberal." The origin of the names "Whig" and "Tory" is uncertain.

The *Rye House Plot* was the last remarkable event of the reign. The Whigs were to attempt to shoot Charles and his brother, the Duke of York, and place the Duke of Monmouth on the throne. The plot was discovered, and the ringleaders executed.

## JAMES II.

*From A. D. 1685 to 1688—three years.*

At first James was very popular with the people, but he soon began to show himself in his true colours. The Duke of Monmouth, who had fled to Holland when the Rye House Plot was discovered, now returned to assert his right to the throne. His army was defeated, however, at the battle of Sedgemore, 1685. Sedgemore was the last battle ever fought in England. Monmouth was taken prisoner and executed.

In 1688 James issued a *Declaration of Indulgence*, giving all religions denominations liberty to worship "according to the dictates of their own conscience." There are some who blame James for this, and say that he did not act according to the English constitution. Was it not a good act, no matter whether he did or not? Charles I. was brought to the scaffold, partly because he would not allow liberty of conscience.

James ordered that all clergyman should read the *Declaration of Indulgence*, during divine services, for two Sundays.

The clergy refused, and seven Bishops drew up a petition, requesting the king to withdraw the order. They were arrested, sent to the tower, and tried for libel, as their petition had been printed and circulated through the country. The jury returned a verdict of *Not Guilty*, and at this result the delight of the nation knew no bounds.

On the very day on which the Bishops were acquitted, a letter signed by some of the most influential noblemen, was sent to *William, Prince of Orange*, the son-in-law of James, to come and aid the people in defending their liberty.

William accepted the offer, and landed in England towards the close of the year 1688. James fled to France.

William called a Parliament, which declared that James had abdicated, and that the throne was vacant. The crown was offered to William and Mary jointly, and they accepted it.

Then the *Declaration of Rights* was passed. "It laid down the terms on which the Lords and Commons gave the crown away. The means by which the Stuarts tried to rule were declared unlawful. Parliaments were to be called often, and the king was not to set aside laws, or fail to put them in force, without the consent of Parliament."

Thus was the great struggle between the king and his people brought to a close. It terminated in the triumph of the people. Government now became what is called Responsible.

Ever since the Revolution the power of the Parliament has been greater than that of the Sovereign.

## WILLIAM III. AND MARY II.

*From 1689 till 1702—13 years.*

The great object of William's life was to humble Louis of France, and this he succeeded in doing.

James, buoyed up by promises of help from France, raised an army of 30,000 men, and besieged Londonderry; but the inhabitants held out bravely, and James was forced to retreat. On the banks of the river Boyne his army was totally defeated by king William. The *Orangemen* still keep the "Twelfth of July" in commemoration of that day on which Britain was freed from the power of Rome.

The money brought in by the taxes was not sufficient to defray the expense of these wars, so a number of persons raised a large sum and lent it to the Government. They received

interest, but the principal was never paid. This was the origin of our *National Debt*.

During William's reign the power of the Commons was greatly increased. The *Triennial Bill* was passed, enacting that no Parliament should sit longer than three years. A certain sum was granted to the king to meet the expenses of the Civil List, and the remainder of the revenue was at the disposal of the Parliament.

In 1701 was passed the *Act of Settlement*, providing that the sovereigns of Great Britain should be Protestants; that the Princess Sophia, of Hanover, and her heirs (if Protestants) should succeed to the throne, after the death of Anne, and that judges should hold office for life, or good conduct, at fixed salaries.

Mary died in 1694, and William in 1702.

#### ANNE.

*From A.D. 1702 till 1714—12 years.*

When William III. died, Anne, the second daughter of James II., was crowned Queen.

Louis of France now laid claim to the Spanish throne, for his grandson. He was opposed by Britain, Prussia, Holland, Austria and Hanover, who favored the Austrian Prince. The union of the above named countries was called the Grand Alliance. The war that followed was called "The War of the Spanish Succession." The Duke of Marlborough was appointed to the command of the allied armies. Four great victories were won by the allies, namely: Blenheim, 1704; Ramilies, 1706; Oudenarde, 1708; and Malplaquet, 1709. Gibraltar was taken by Admiral Rooke in 1704, and has ever since remained in the possession of the British. The war was brought to a close in 1713 by the treaty of Utrecht. By this treaty Louis agreed to recognize the sovereigns of the Brunswick line; to cease aiding the Pretender, which was the name given to the son of James II.; and to allow Britain to retain Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Gibraltar.

In 1707 was passed the Act of Union uniting the Parliaments of England and Scotland. Scotland was permitted to enjoy the same freedom of trade as England, to retain the Presbyterian form of worship, and to send forty-five members to the House of Commons, and sixteen Peers to the House of Lords.

In William III's. reign the members of the Cabinet were chosen from among the ranks of the Tories, and Whigs too. If the Ministers could not agree, William decided between them. Anne followed the same plan for a time, but towards the close of her reign a new method was introduced. If the majority of the people were in favor of the Tories, the Tories exclusively had the power and governed the country; if the people favored the Whigs, they held all the power. This plan has been followed in Britain ever since. Canada is also governed by the same system, which is called *Party Govern-*

### BRUNSWICK OR GUELPH PERIOD.

*Began in 1714, and has lasted 166 years—Six Sovereigns.*

George	I.	began to reign	1714,	died	1727.
George	II.	" " "	1727,	"	1760.
George	III.	" " "	1760,	"	1820.
George	IV.	" " "	1820,	"	1830.
William	IV.	" " "	1830,	"	1837.
Victoria	...	" " "	1837,		

### GEORGE I.

*From 1747 to 1772—13 years.*

George I. ascended the throne of Britain by the conditions of the Act of Settlement, which was passed in the reign of William III. He was the son of the Princess Sophia, of Hanover. He did not care for his British subjects, and could neither speak nor write the English language. He stood in perpetual fear of the pretender and his followers, the *Jacobites*. They got this name from Jacobus, the Latin name for James.

In 1715, the Pretender raised an insurrection in the Highlands of Scotland, and the north of England. They were defeated, however, at the battles of Sheriff-Muir and Preston. The ringleaders were taken prisoners and executed.

The nation was in such a state of excitement, caused by these rebellions, that the government did not think it advisable to have a general election just at that time, so they passed the *Septennial Act*, which decreed that parliament should sit for seven years. This Act has existed ever since.

The *South Sea Bubble*, or South Sea scheme, was perhaps the most extraordinary event of the reign. The South Sea Company, of which the leading director was Blunt, proposed to buy up the debts of the country, and advance to the Govern-

ment all the money they required at four per cent. Besides this they agreed to pay the government the sum of seven million pounds as a bonus. In return for all these advantages the Company was to receive the exclusive right of trading in the South Seas. The people were led to believe that enormous fortunes were to be made, and thousands rushed in to purchase South Sea stock. People paid one thousand pounds for the chances, which one hundred pounds of the Company's stock would return them from the distant Pacific. Soon the rottenness of the scheme was discovered, the stock fell, and thousands were ruined, 1720.

Sir Robert Walpole now came forward and did a great deal towards relieving the public distress. He was raised to the office of Prime Minister in 1722, and held that position for twenty years, by the most barefaced and shameful habits of bribery.

## GEORGE II.

*From 1727 to 1760—33 years.*

George II., son of George I., ascended the throne in 1727. Walpole still remained in power. This Minister's policy was to preserve peace, and, though he employed an extensive and disgraceful system of bribery, yet it cannot be denied that he did much to advance the commercial resources and manufacturing industries of the country.

The Spanish cruisers claimed and exercised the right of searching all vessels suspected of smuggling along the coast of South America. This led to war. Walpole tried in vain to prevent it. The war was carried on successfully, and Walpole was compelled to resign, 1742.

The war of the Austrian Succession began in 1641. Britain became complicated in it, and took the side opposite to France. George in, person, led the British Army, and in 1743 he defeated the French troops at the battle of Dettingen. Three years later, in 1745, the British, commanded by the son of George, the Duke of Cumberland, were defeated at the battle of Fontenoy, by the French under Marshal Saxe.

The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, signed in 1748, closed the war.

In this reign occurred the rebellion known as the "Forty-five." Charles Edward Stuart, who was son of the old pretender, landed near Moidart, and made a daring attempt to seize the throne of Britain. "He came with seven officers and

arms for two thousand men, to conquer a great empire." Directly the royal standard of the Stuarts was displayed, the people flocked around it in thousands. They defeated the royal army under Sir John Cope, at Prestonpans, and then marched into England as far as Derby, in the hope that they would be joined by the northern Jacobites; but their hope was vain. The result of the insurrection in 1745 was still green in the memories of the people, and but a few were willing to risk their lives in so dangerous an undertaking. They therefore thought it advisable to retreat into Scotland again, and begin the backward march. A slight success at Falkirk served to raise their drooping spirits, but disaster awaited them. At Culloden Field, in 1746, they were utterly routed by the English under the Duke of Cumberland. The pretender after undergoing many privations, escaped to Rome, and there he died in 1788.

Another war, caused by a dispute about the boundary lines of their colonies, sprang up between England and France. At first fortune went against the English, but "The Great Commoner," William Pitt, was made Prime Minister, and under his skilful administration the tables were turned.

In 1757, Lord Clive, by the famous victory he won at Plassey, wrested the large and fertile province of Bengal from the French.

Two years later, in 1759, General Wolfe, by the battle of the Plains of Abraham, took Quebec, and with it fell the whole of Canada.

*John Wesley* and *George Whitefield* founded the religious denomination called *Methodists* in this reign.

### GEORGE III.

*From 1760 A.D. to 1820—60 Years.*

George III. ascended a glorious throne. His position was rendered illustrious by the splendid conquests abroad, and the progress of wealth and civilization at home.

In 1765 the British Government introduced a Bill to compel the North American Colonists to pay a tax on certain articles which they imported. The Colonists sent no representatives to the British Parliament, and had nothing to do with the Government, therefore they refused to pay the taxes. The British claimed that they had spent millions of money to defend the Colonists, and on that account they were entitled to

impose taxes on the latter, to aid in paying off the debt incurred to defend them.

Tea and paper were taxed, but although a duty of three pence per pound on tea was retained, the Stamp Act by which the duty was laid on paper, was repealed. The breach widened, till 1776 the Colonists drew up a document called the *Declaration of Independence* by which the thirteen colonies under the name of the United States of America declared their independence. George Washington at once took command of the American army. In 1777, the British, under General Burgoyne, were hemmed in at Saratoga, and compelled to surrender; but the decisive blow was struck at Yorkton in 1781, where Lord Cornwallis was surrounded, and shut up in the place, by the skilful manoeuvring of Washington. In 1783 Britain formally acknowledged the independence of the thirteen states, by treaty.

The great *French Revolution* which took place in this reign was caused by the terrible oppression of the lower classes by the arrogant aristocracy, and the reckless extravagance of the court.

Louis XIV. was dethroned and executed, and a republic set up. Great Britain was forced to declare war against France in 1793. The French Convention had published a decree offering all nations their help in recovering their freedom. This led to a war which continued almost uninterruptedly for twenty-two years.

*Napoleon Bonaparte* played an important part in the history of Europe for the succeeding years. He was a native of Corsica, and by a series of brilliant victories raised himself to the French throne. Until his fleet was defeated at the *Battle of the Nile* in 1798 by Admiral Nelson, he had met with nothing but success. In 1805 he crushed the Austrian power at the Battle of Austerlitz. In the same year off Cape Trafalgar, Lord Nelson again defeated the allied fleets of France and Spain. Bonaparte now attempted to place his brother Joseph on the throne of Spain. This led to the *Peninsular war*.

After overrunning the greater part of Europe, Napoleon turned his arms against England. Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington, was appointed to the chief command. He defeated the French, under Junot, at Vimera. In 1808 Wellington was recalled, and Sir John Moore took his place. Moore died victorious at Corunna, and Wellington

again took command. A succession of splendid victories crowned the British arms, viz:

Talavera.....	1809.
Salamanca .....	1812.
Vittoria .....	1813.
Toulouse .....	1814.
Waterloo .....	1815.

In 1814 Napoleon abdicated and was banished to Elba, but within a year he returned and made a last effort to regain his lost power. His plans were frustrated by the battle of Waterloo.

The Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland were united in 1801. Ireland is represented in the Commons by one hundred and five members and in the Lords by thirty-two peers.

In 1812 a war between Britain and the United States broke out, caused by the British claiming and exercising the right to search American vessels for deserters from the royal navy.

#### GEORGE IV.

*From 1820 to 1830—10 years.*

The most important event in this reign was the passing of the *Catholic Emancipation Act*, which repealed all penal laws against the Catholics and gave them the same privileges as Protestants. This took place in 1829.

From the time of Charles II. till 1829 the laws against Catholics were so stringent that none of them could be sent to Parliament to fill any corporate office.

#### WILLIAM IV.

*From 1830 to 1837—seven years.*

In this reign was passed another very important act, namely, *The Reform Bill*, 1832.

The chief provisions were:—(1) "That none should sit in Parliament who did not represent the people; and (2) That those who did sit there should be chosen in such a way as to represent the people justly and fairly." The right of voting was to be extended more widely among the middle classes; some old places in which resided perhaps only two or three voters, and which had the privilege of sending a member to represent them, had this privilege taken away from them and



given to places that had lately acquired some importance and were still unrepresented.

In 1833 was passed *An Act for the Abolition of Slavery*. This was the life-work of the noble WILLIAM WILBERFORCE. By it, all the slaves in the British Dominions were set free, and a compensation of twenty million pounds sterling was granted to the slave-holders.

## VICTORIA.

*Began to reign 1837, and is still reigning.*

The Salic Law prevented Queen Victoria from becoming queen of Hanover. By this law no woman could hold the throne.

In 1837 a rebellion, headed by Papineau and Mackenzie, broke out in Canada, but it was soon suppressed. In order to strengthen the government of the colony, an Act was passed in 1840 by which Upper and Lower Canada were united.

The Corn Laws were repealed in 1846, and all duties on foreign grain landing in Britain were abolished, and Free Trade was extended to every department of British commerce.

In 1854 a war broke out, caused by Russian interference in Turkish affairs. Britain and France formed an alliance to oppose the Russians and aid the Turks, and the Crimean War began.

Alma, Balaklava, Inkerman, are the names of some of the victories won by the allies. The Russians were defeated, and the war ended in 1856.

In 1866 the Atlantic Cable was successfully laid.

In 1867 an Act was passed for the Confederation of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, under the name of the Dominion of Canada. The Act came in force on July 1st, hence "Dominion Day."

A Liberal Government, with Mr. Gladstone at its head, passed an Act, in 1869, for the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

The Ballot Act was passed in 1872.

At the general election in 1874 Mr. Gladstone was badly defeated, and a Conservative Government, under the leadership of Mr. Disraeli, late Earl of Beaconsfield, was formed.

The Berlin Treaty, the result of a conference of the leading European powers to settle the "Eastern Question," was signed in 1878. This treaty closed the Turco-Russian war.

The Zulu war, and a war in Afghanistan, are the most important event of 1879. The former ended successfully with the capture of King Cetawayo, the Zulu Prince.

In the spring of 1880, at the general elections, Earl Beaconsfield found himself in the minority, and Mr. Gladstone again became Premier.

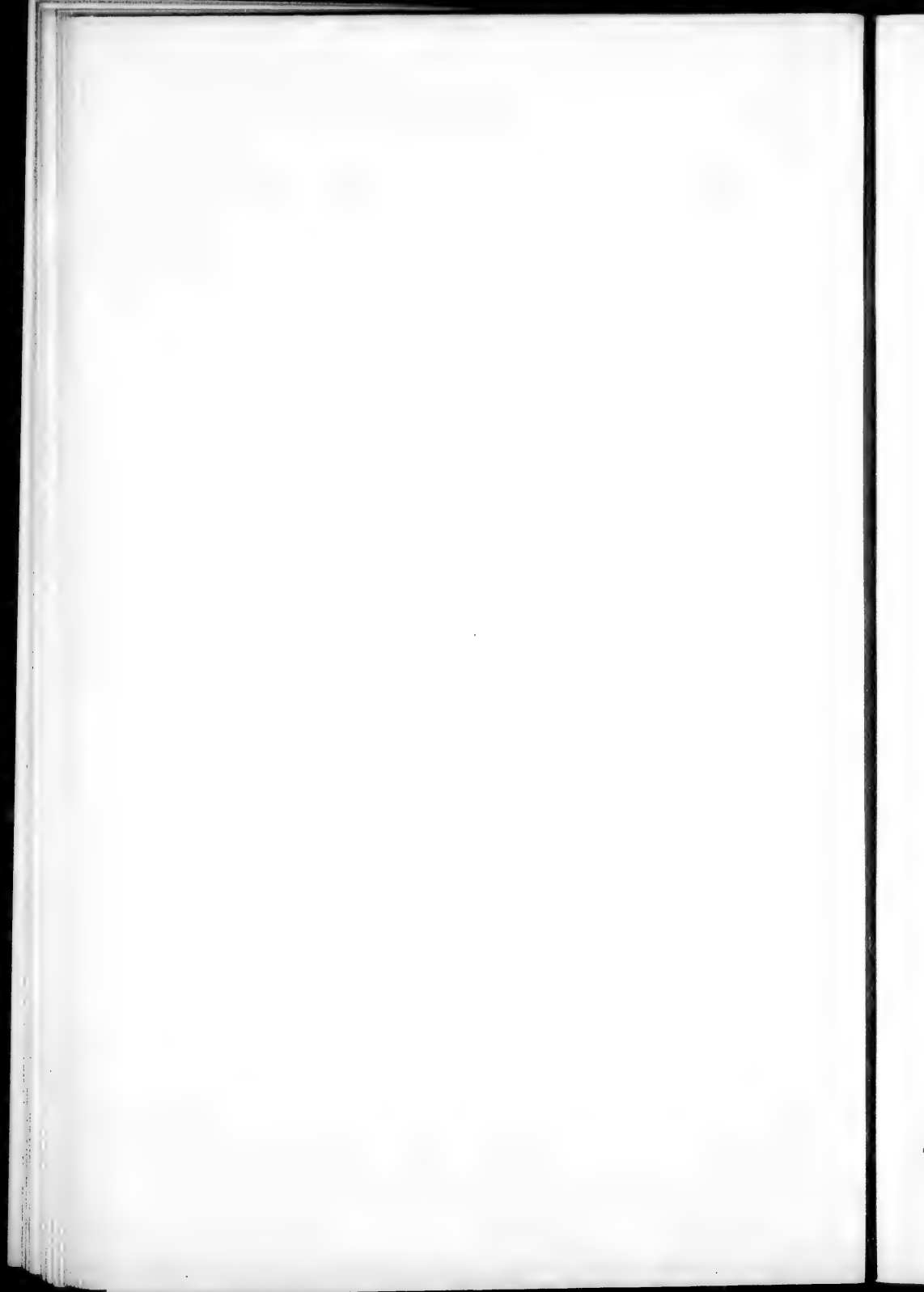
The Imperial Parliament is now engaged in trying to restore peace and concord to Ireland, which is much excited over the Land Question.

Several men, among whom are Messrs Parnell, Dillon, and Davy, have succeeded in stirring the people up to the verge of rebellion. Indeed, in several parts of the island they have assumed a warlike attitude. Several agrarian outrages have been committed, and in order to prevent insurrection, a *Coercion Act* has been passed. The Imperial Parliament is now engaged in discussing a *Land Bill*, which will, it is thought, restore peace and concord to the island.

The war in Afghanistan has been closed, also a war with the *Boers*, in South Africa. By the treaty which brought the latter war to an end; the British made some concessions, which, the people thought, too humble, and Mr. Gladstone has been severely criticised for yielding so much.

After a long discussion, *Mr. Bradlaugh*, an Atheist who had been elected to Parliament, has been compelled to relinquish his seat in the House.

On the morning of Tuesday, April 19th, died Mr. Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield. He had been ill for some time, and his death was daily expected. He was a great man, of untiring energy, and a strong will; he rose from the bottom of the ladder, to be Premier of Great Britain. He held the reins of power in the stormiest times, and guided Britain safely through great difficulties. A few days after his death, Mr. Gladstone, his political opponent, delivered a noble eulogy on him.



## LEADING DATES IN HISTORY.

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	B. C.
	A. D.
Cæsar lands in Britain.....	55-54
Claudius in Britain.....	43
Caradoc subdued.....	50
Boadicea revolts.....	61
Agricola governs Britain.....	78-84
Hadrian in Britain.....	120
Severus dies at York.....	211
Martyrdom of St. Alban.....	about 304
Romans leave Britain.....	" 410
The English Conquest. Landing of Hengist and Horsa.....	449
Battle of Badbury.....	520
Ethelbert, of Kent, converted to Christianity.....	597
Edwin converted to Christianity.....	627
Danes land in England.....	789
Origin of the Kingdom of England.....	829
Egbert, first King of England.....	829
Æthelwulf " " ".....	837
Æthelbald " " ".....	858
Æthelbert " " ".....	860
Æthelred I " " ".....	866
Alfred " " ".....	871
Battle of Ethandune and Peace of Wedmure.....	878
Edward the Elder.....	901
Edward becomes master of all Britain.....	924
Æthelstan.....	925
Battle of Brunnenburgh.....	937
Edmund.....	940
Edred.....	946
Edwy.....	955
Edgar.....	973
Edward the Martyr.....	975
Æthelred II.....	979
Battle of Maldon.....	991
Danegeld first paid.....	991
Danish Conquest.....	1013
Æthelred restored.....	1014
Edmund Ironside.....	1016
The Kingdom divided between Edmund and Canute.....	1016

	A. D.
House of Cedric restored.....	1042
Edward the Confessor.....	1042
Struggle against the foreigners.....	1051-1052
House of Godwin, Harold II.....	1066
Battle of Stamford Bridge.....	1066
Battle of Hastings, Norman Conquest.....	1066
William I.....	1066
Domesday Book compiled.....	1085-1086
William II.....	1087
Siege of Alnwick.....	1093
Henry I.....	1100
Charter of Liberties granted.....	1100
Battle of Tenchbai.....	1106
Stephen.....	1135
Battle of the Standard.....	1138
War of Stephen and Matilda.....	1139-1153
House of Anjou, or Plantagenet line, Henry II.....	1154
Constitution of Clarendon.....	1164
Conquest of Ireland.....	1169-1170
Becket murdered.....	1170
Richard I.....	1189
John.....	1199
Magna Charta granted.....	1215
Henry III.....	1216
Barons' war.....	1264
Battle of Lewes.....	1264
First Parliament.....	1265
Battle of Evesham.....	1265
Edward I.....	1272
Conquest of Wales.....	1282
Jews expelled from England.....	1290
First <i>Organization of Parliament</i> .....	1295
Conquest of Scotland.....	1296
Confirmation of the Charters.....	1297
Battle of Bannockburn.....	1314
“ Athenree.....	1316
Edward II. deposed Edward III.....	1327
Scotland independent.....	1328
Hundred Years War begins.....	1338
Battle of Crecy.....	1346
“ Neville's Cross.....	1346
“ Poitiers.....	1356
“ Sluys.....	1340
Treaty of Bretigny.....	1360
Good Parliament.....	1376
Richard II.....	1377

A. D.		A. D.
1042	Peasant Insurrection.....	1381
1042	Wycliffe died.....	1384
1052	House of Lancaster, Henry IV.....	1399
1066	Statute against Heretics, Sautre burned.....	1401
1066	Battle of Shrewsbury.....	1403
1066	Henry V.....	1413
1066	Hundred Years War renewed.....	1415
1086	Battle of Agincourt.....	1415
1087	Surrender of Rouen.....	1419
1093	Treaty of Troyes.....	1420
1100	Henry VI.....	1422
1100	Cade's Rebellion.....	1450
1106	End of Hundred Years War.....	1453
1135	Wars of the Roses begin.....	1455
1138	First battle of St. Albans.....	1455
-1153	Battle of Wakefield.....	1460
1154	"    Barnet.....	1471
1164	"    Tewkesbury.....	1471
-1170	"    Bosworth.....	1485
1170	House of York, Edward IV.....	1461
1189	Edward V.....	1483
1199	Richard III.....	1483
1215	Tudor Period, Henry VII.....	1485
1216	Warbeck executed.....	1499
1264	Margaret Tudor married to James IV., of Scotland.....	1503
1264	Henry VIII.....	1509
1265	Battle of Flodden.....	1513
1265	Henry divorced from Catharine.....	1533
1272	Breach with Rome.....	1534
1282	Wales and England incorporated.....	1536
1290	Monasteries destroyed.....	1536
1295	Anne Boleyn executed.....	1536
1296	Ireland raised to rank of a Kingdom.....	1542
1297	Six Articles.....	1539
1314	Edward VI.....	1547
1316	Battle of Pinkie.....	1547
1327	Mary.....	1553
1328	Wyatt's rebellion.....	1554
1338	Ridley and Latimer burned.....	1555
1346	Calias lost.....	1558
1346	Elizabeth.....	1558
1356	Act of Uniformity.....	1559
1340	"    Supremacy.....	1559
1360	Mary Queen of Scots executed.....	1587
1376	Spanish Armada defeated.....	1588
1377	East India company chartered.....	1600

Stuart Period, James I .....	1603
Gunpowder Plot, Nov. 5th .....	1603
Translation of Bible finished .....	1611
Charles I. ....	1625
Petition of Right .....	1628
Hampden refuses to pay ship money .....	1636
Long Parliament meets .....	1640
Strafford beheaded .....	1641
Irish rebellion .....	1641
Civil War begins .....	1642
Battle of Naseby .....	1645
"    Preston .....	1648
Charles I. murdered .....	1649
Commonwealth .....	1649
Cromwell's campaign in Ireland .....	1649-1650
Battle of Dunbar .....	1650
"    Worcester .....	1651
Dutch War .....	1632-1654
Cromwell expels the Parliament .....	1653
Protectorate, Cromwell .....	1653
Jamaica taken .....	1655
Long Parliament reassembles .....	1658
Convention meets, Restoration .....	1660
The Plague .....	1665
The Great Fire .....	1666
The Secret Treaty of Dover .....	1670
Habeas Corpus .....	1679
Western Rebellion .....	1685
Battle of Sedgemoor .....	1685
Trial of the seven Bishops .....	1688
Landing of Prince William of Orange .....	1688
Declaration of Rights .....	1689
Toleration Act, Bill of Rights .....	1689
Battle of the Boyne .....	1690
Surrender of Limerick .....	1681
National Debt begins .....	1693
Act of Settlement .....	1701
Anne .....	1702
Gibraltar taken, Battle of Blenheim .....	1704
Union of Scotland and England's Parliament .....	1707
Treaty of Utrecht .....	1713
Brunswick Line, George I. ....	1714
Rebellion of "Fifteen" .....	1714-1716
Septennial Act .....	1716
George II .....	1727
Battle of Dettingen .....	1723

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Rebellion of "Forty-five" .....	1745-1746
Battle of Culloden .....	1746
Conquest of India .....	1757
"    Canada .....	1759
George III .....	1760
Declaration of Independence .....	1776
French Revolution .....	1793
Battle of the Nile .....	1798
Union with Ireland .....	1801
Peace of Amiens .....	1802
War with France renewed .....	1803
Battle of Trafalgar .....	1805
Pitt died. Berlin decrees issued .....	1806
Peninsular War .....	1808-1814
The Regency .....	1811
Battle of Waterloo .....	1815
George IV .....	1820
Catholic Emancipation Bill .....	1829
William IV .....	1830
Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened .....	1830
Abolition of Slavery .....	1833
Reform Bill .....	1833
Victoria .....	1837
Repeal of Corn Laws .....	1846
Crimea War .....	1854
Battle of Alma, Sept. 20th .....	1854
Indian Mutiny .....	1857
Dominion of Canada .....	1867
Reform Bill .....	1867
Irish Church Disestablished .....	1869
Elementary Education Act .....	1870
Ballot Bill .....	1872
The Queen takes the title of Empress of India .....	1877
Zula War and War in Afghanistan .....	1879
Land League excitement in Ireland .....	1881

NOTE.—These dates have been carefully selected from Thompson's History, and will be found very useful, even by advanced students.

THE END.



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